

Stratford on Avon District Council

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Comment text:

As a resident of Burton Dassett Parish and Chair of the Parish Council I am stunned to find this consultation published with no prior discussion with the Parish, no questionnaires to residents about where the key social and administrative linkages lie, so that boundaries can be drawn sensibly. Your proposal will divide our Parish of four communities, with three in one Ward and one in another. As I understand it, this would mean we would expect to have FOUR District Councillors attend all our Parish Council meetings under these proposals! District Councillors might even outnumber Parish Councillors in some meetings, which would be interesting. This seems somewhat wasteful, at a time where District Councils are trying to cut costs. This issue is exacerbated by both Wards being two-Councillor Wards, because your team couldn't figure out how to sub-divide these two large, rural Wards (again, settled without you bothering to engage with said communities to see if we had workable ideas to form two sensible single-Councillor Wards from each). The proposed Bishops Itchington Ward stretches 17 miles! How is this a reasonable 'patch' to expect a District Councillor to cover adequately? How is the small community of Knightcote going to have any influence on its District Councillors under these proposals? The LGBC fixation with aligning residents per District Councillor, at the expense of common sense in several cases, is laughable. Where is the adjustment for geography? A Councillor cannot possibly provide the same level of service to 2,500 residents when one District is concentrated in one square mile in Stratford and one is spread across 30 square miles of rural countryside. Common sense would suggest two different population ratios are used, one for urban areas, one for rural and possibly a third for 'mixed'. The total number of Councillors could be the same, of course, but spread more sensibly. You are the professionals; this is not rocket science. Are known developments (Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath and the 92 houses in Temple Herdewyke, for example) factored into your calculations, or will these almost immediately mess up your finely balanced ratios and mean boundary changes are needed again in five years' time?

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded